

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00270 201509Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 EB-07 /066 W
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FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1051
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL MONTREAL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUEBEC 0270

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT CA
SUBJ: WILL RENE BECOME WINDED RUNNING SO MANY RACES?

1. RECENTLY APPOINTED DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS, ROBERT NORMAND, TODAY TOLD ME HE BELIEVES GOQ WILL BE FORCED TO APPROACH INDEPENDENCE THROUGH A SERIES OF REFERENDA. RECENT POLL INDICATING REJECTIONS OF INDEPENDENCE WITHOUT CONTINUED ASSOCIATION WITH REST OF CANADA (REPORTED IN MONTREAL 1170) REINFORCES NORMAND'S PREVIOUSLY HELD ASSUMPTION THAT QUEBECOIS WOULD VOTE AGAINST A REFERENDUM BASED ON A CLEAR CHOICE INVOLVING INDEPENDENCE. THUS, IF THE PQ IS TO SUCCEED IN ARRIVING AT ITS SOVEREIGNTIST GOAL, IT MUST APPROACH "OBLIQUELY, STEP-BY-STEP".

2. BIGGEST PROBLEM FOR PRESENT GOVERNMENT IS POOR STATE OF THE ECONOMY, NORMAND ASSERTED. VOTERS CHARACTERISTICALLY BLAME THE GOVERNMENT IN POWER FOR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS EVEN THOUGH THERE MAY BE PRECIOUS LITTLE IT CAN DO TO AMELIORATE THE SITUATION. NORMAND REASONED THAT PQ'S EFFORTS TO FAVORABLY INFLUENCE ATTITUDES ON INDEPENDENCE BY PROVIDING EFFICACIOUS GOVERNMENT COULD FOUNDER ON JAGGED ECONOMIC SHOALS.

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Message Attributes

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